

Cottage Grove Sentinel

Mondays and Thursdays

Elbert Bede & Elbert Smith, Publishers
Elbert Bede, Editor

A first-class publication entered at Cottage Grove as second-class matter

Business Office: 25 North Sixth

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
By mail (cash in advance)
One year: \$2.00 Three months: \$0.80
Six months: \$1.00 One month: \$0.40

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ONE LAW FOR ALL.

A well known jurist of Oregon, Judge McMahon of the Marion county circuit court, has stirred some people of Oregon by statements that personal liberties of the people are being invaded, and he has pleased others by the same statements.

Judge McMahon never minces words. He says exactly what he thinks. Despite this he often is given credit for thinking things which he probably would say he had never thought.

But some things the judge has thought and said should give pause. One of these things is that the rich, the powerful, the influential can do things with impunity for which the lumberjack, the weak and inconsequential are sent to jail.

And no one has disputed this statement, a statement coming from one who sits on the bench and administers the law. We should advise the wealthy and the influential to keep out of his court and we should suggest it as a good place for the underdog, the friendless, the helpless.

The judge has made the statement that where a man makes his home is his castle, whether it be a few boards rudely nailed to rough timbers, or whether it be a luxuriously furnished palace, but that in practice the officer does not hesitate to break into the wooden shack without writ of law, while a writ is seldom asked for the palace, where wines may flow and other excesses may go unnoticed.

To the extent that we differ as to whether prohibition is an invasion of personal liberty we may differ as to whether or not a man's home should be sacred except to the officer carrying a search warrant issued after a reasonable showing that contraband might be found there, although a greater judge than the Oregon judge has just ordered liquor returned which was seized under a legal writ, declaring that there was not sufficient evidence for issuance of the writ; but we all can easily agree that each legal habitation, the crumbling hut or the resplendent

palace, should have the same standing before the law.

The judge cited instances of officers killing those whom they were pursuing, although the crimes with which the pursued were charged were nothing more than misdemeanors. In one case the pursued did not even know officers wished them, and their offense was a violation of traffic laws. It is easy for us to agree that an officer has no more right to kill than a private citizen. A private citizen may kill in self defense or in preventing the escape of a felon. So may an officer without incurring criticism. We have no sympathy for the criminal and under no circumstances would we see one of our brave defenders of the law take undue chances with his own life, but we do not care to return to the day when many minor offenses meant death.

We can not understand the seriousness of this assumption of judicial powers by police officers without supposing that police officers of our own city should shoot and kill some person who had committed a minor offense and was in no way endangering the life of the officer. What would be the reaction in such a case?

Cottage Grove's chief of police has never had to use a gun on any person whom he was placing under arrest, yet the thief, the bootlegger and other law violators give him a wide berth, and seldom does one get away.

The judge might have said, but it seems he didn't, that in shooting those against whom only minor offenses are charged there has again been deference to wealth, to position. Officers do not blaze away at those of high position in the world.

The words of a street demagogue, even if the same words were used, might have little weight, but these words coming from a judge of one of our circuit courts, from one who administers the law and knows how often it fails of its purpose, how often it is used as the excuse for commission of serious crimes, we may well pause and give ear and heed.

WHY SUCH THINGS FOR DEBATERS?

Several Oregon students have just completed a trip around the world as representatives of their college and have met teams in various countries of the world. They are now meeting teams in their own country and are working their way west, after having arrived at New York.

No, it isn't a foot ball team—strange as that may seem. It is a debating team. Why a debating team should be sent around the world when a foot ball team, which so many think more representative of college life, could have been sent, is going to puzzle many. De-

bating, it seems, fits into college life somewhere, although you seldom see anything about one in the newspapers and it never attracts crowds of rooters willing to pay three plunks per seat.

These debaters visited Rome and stood where Roman senators of yesteryears appealed to the populace by their demands for consolidation of departments of governments and told how they would go through hell and Greece to lift the tax burden from the over-burdened property owner. That was before income tax had been invented.

They stood where howling mobs encouraged the gladiator to walk up and spit in the face of the lion. The old Roman senators and sinners had as much fun with that gentle sport as we do with football these days.

They watched Vesuvius in eruption and heard Mussolini and other volcanoes, but they were unable to make the sphinx talk.

They visited spots where centuries ago great governments and vice and corruption held sway and where now there is but desert sands, movie colonies on location and moth-eaten camels wearily troking the shifting sands.

They walked streets where the Savior and the Pharisees may have walked, and they came pretty near having to walk themselves to get home.

But why all these things for debaters?

It seems that to be on a debating team it is necessary to be an English student, to be a public speaker, to be conversant with literature, history and current events. These things are all right in after life, but why reward students with a trip around the world for fooling away their time with things they won't need while in college? How can we ever expect to have a great college if we are going to lay such stress on things that do not fit a man for the gridiron or for the other things that make college life a success?

Yeggs "souped" a Cottage Grove safe and then got scared away before touching it off. They left a warning, however, to beware of the explosive. And that shows what one lone editor can do. These yeggs had no doubt read Elbert Bede's sermon to the C. E. society published in his own paper and they just naturally could not do a Wrong.—Corvallis Gazette-Times.

Why should a red-blooded American girl lower herself by marrying one of those bloody blue-blooded foreigners?

The person who can't get up an appetite without an appetizer already has an appetite he can't satisfy.

Chinese eggs may be the American farmer's yellow peril.

WANING INTEREST IN DEBATE.

(McMinville Telephone-Register.) Wednesday night, February 1, three schools in the county, and their six debate teams, will hold a triangular contest and unless we are unduly pessimistic the public's interest will be small and the attendance smaller.

Yet debate, to our way of thinking, is a practice, par excellence, which trains in clear thought, forceful delivery and imparts to the participants the attributes of earnest work, careful training and a wider interest in problems of the day.

There are no stadiums, though, for debate and few cheer leaders. The average high school team must glory in the job for the job's sake for its defeats and victories are usually unwept and unsung. This should be otherwise.

One needed improvement which would change the public's attitude would be improvement and simplification of debate questions. The present topic, "Cancellation of International Debts to the United States," is too broad a topic and too remote from the life of most people in this country to be more than mildly interesting. It also has been discussed nationally by such able men that the thinking of the debaters is guided by them and their quotations flavor every speech.

The topics should be local and should be of pertinent interest. While less "material," i. e., quotations, statistics, etc., might be available, there would be more opportunity for real argument and argument in which debater and listener alike would feel a personal interest. We suggest such themes as "The \$3 License Fee," "A State Football Championship," "The Longview Bridge," and kindred topics.

Moreover, debates should have publicity. This would stimulate the debates such as held now and would add mightily to an improved debate system.

The fault now is not with county leaders, but is in the state-wide practice. Anything to better conditions and to restore debate to its once envied place would receive hearty support.

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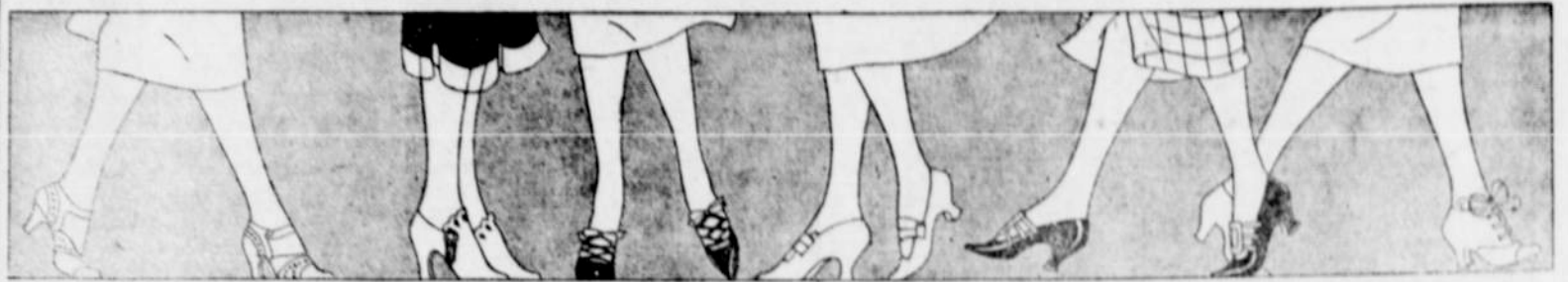
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Many Observe Natal Anniversary For First Time

LONDON. — (UP) — Twenty-six thousand British subjects heretofore without birthdays will, according to statistics furnished by Somerset House, celebrate a total of 75,000 extra birthdays on leap year day of this year.

The figures arrived at are based on the fact that it has been estimated that approximately 26,000 persons were born on February 29, 1924, the last leap year day.

Since this date occurs only every four years, it is pointed out that those who were born on that day can only enjoy their birthday anniversary accordingly. Hence, this year, the 26,000 referred to will have an opportunity of making up for lost time by celebrating four birthdays in one, a total of 104,000. This is, therefore, 78,000 more than were celebrated on February 29, 1924.



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HARRY BOWN DECIDES TO SEEK SHRIEVALTY

Harry L. Bown, former Lane county sheriff and county judge, will be a candidate in the democratic primary May 18 seeking the

nomination for sheriff. Mr. Bown is the second democrat in Lane to make a definite decision to be on the primary ballot. John S. Medley, district attorney, some time ago announced that he would seek reelection.

So far there have been no republican aspirants for the nomination for the office of sheriff except Frank E. Taylor, incumbent, who announced some time ago that he would enter the primary.

Ledgers, Ledger Sheets, Sentinels.

CHRISTINSEN, WILDCAT TO WRESTLE NEXT WEEK

Miri Christensen of Albany and George (Wildcat) Pete of Eugene are to appear in a return match some time next week, according to Harry Neet, matchmaker. Christensen won from Pete in a match here last week and the Eugene wildcat is not satisfied. The first match was one of the best ever seen here, except for some unnecessary rough stuff on the part of Pete, and fans are reported as anxious to see the two in action again.



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